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REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: REGIONAL CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.15

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 9, 15 and 16 of draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.15, the General Assembly would:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures, 1/ which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/71 B of 12 December 1995;

(b) Express its conviction that the democratic process offers a valuable means to build confidence, promote development and prevent conflicts and welcome with satisfaction the decision taken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to hold a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

(c) Request the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on implementation of the resolution.

B. Relationship of the requests to the proposed programme of work

2. The above requests are associated with programme 7, Disarmament, of major programme I, Maintenance of peace and security, disarmament and decolonization, of the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. 2/ The programme of activities within subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, falling under subsection 2C.4, Disarmament, of section 2, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 3/ provides for support to the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. Implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 15 and 16 of the draft resolution with respect to the provision of assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee and submission of a report to the General Assembly are related to the programme of activities in the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 under subsection 2C.4. They would be carried out under subprogramme 4 of programme 7 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as revised, to the extent possible from within resources provided under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. In that regard, attention is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/50/57/Add.1), in which it is proposed to reduce substantive servicing of the meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee from four to two during the current biennium.

4. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/287), the work of the Standing Advisory Committee intensified and expanded significantly in late 1995 and during 1996. Concern over continued tensions and conflict in the subregion, greatly influenced the discussions of the Committee over that period. As such, the heads of State and Government of the member States of the Committee set out a course of action on subregional security cooperation and outlined the following specific measures:

(a) The creation, promotion and support of good governance and participatory democracy;

(b) The organization, under United Nations auspices, of seminars to promote a sustainable culture of peace and democratic responsibility within the armed forces, the paramilitary forces (gendarmerie) and the police forces of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee;

(c) The adoption and implementation of subregional confidence-building measures, including in particular the signature and effective observance of the Non-Aggression Pact among Central African States;

(d) The implementation, with the assistance of the United Nations and the international community as a whole, of a disarmament programme designed to deal with the problem of the uncontrolled proliferation of weapons;

(e) The establishment, under United Nations auspices, of a subregional early-warning mechanism to monitor developments in Central Africa with a view to preventing potential crises or tensions from degenerating into armed conflicts;

(f) The designation, within the armed forces and the paramilitary and police forces of States members of the Committee, of specialized units for possible deployment with United Nations and/or Organization of African Unity (OAU) peace missions;

(g) The convening, on a regular basis, of meetings of heads of State and Government, within the framework of the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, to examine peace and related security issues in the subregion.

5. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, the two regular annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, which are financed from the United Nations regular budget and form part of its activities, have been reduced to one per year, in view of the financial crisis the United Nations is encountering. The Standing Advisory Committee, cognizant of the financial and other material resources required to fully implement the programme of work enumerated above, has conveyed its gratitude to those donors that have already contributed or plan to contribute to the Trust Fund for the Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, established by the Secretary-General in March 1996.

6. In connection with the holding of a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa", referred to in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, anticipated requirements are expected to be met by the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General to meet the financial requirements (other than those funded under the regular budget of the United Nations, i.e., the two regular annual meetings, which have been reduced to one per year) for full implementation of the programme of work of the Committee. The Secretary-General would accordingly invite voluntary financial contributions from States Members of the United Nations, governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals to finance the proposed subregional conference.

D. Modifications required in the programme of work for 1996-1997

7. The requests contained in the draft resolution are associated with subprogramme 4, Assistance to developing countries on disarmament issues: regional centres; fellowships, training and advisory services, of programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, and fall under section 2, Political affairs of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Accordingly, modifications relate to those indicated in paragraphs 3 and 6 above.

E. Additional requirements at full costs

8. The requirements for the servicing of a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 are estimated at $171,800 and would provide for the following:

		United States dollars
(a)	Conference-servicing costs	
(i)	Rental of premises	6 000
(ii)	Rental of office equipment	1 500
(iii)	Interpretation	10 000
(iv)	Distribution	9 000
	Subtotal	26 500
(b)	Non-conference-servicing costs	
(i)	General temporary assistance	2 000
(ii)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance of participants	93 500
(iii)	Travel and daily subsistence allowance of staff	21 500
(iv)	General operating expenses and supplies	8 500
	Subtotal	125 500
(c)	Programme support costs (13 per cent)	19 800
	Grand total	171 800

F. Potential for absorption

9. The programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, proposed for revision by the Secretary-General in his report (A/C.5/50/57/Add.1), would provide for substantive servicing of one regular annual meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee. In view of the reduced level of resources under the regular budget, it is therefore anticipated that the additional requirements estimated at $171,800 for the servicing of the subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 could be met with resources contributed to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. Total contributions to date to the Trust Fund, since its establishment in March 1996, are $602,932. Expenditures of $209,000 from the Fund in 1996

were utilized to fund the Peace Operations Training Seminar held at Yaounde, from 9 to 17 September. Other expenditures anticipated from the Fund in 1996, relate to missions of consultation and political missions undertaken by members of the Committee. In addition, the programme of work envisaged for 1997 foresees several meetings which are expected to be decided by the Committee in February 1997. States members of the Committee are conscious of the fact that full implementation of the programme of work is dependent on the availability of resources received from voluntary contributions. Requirements for servicing of the subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 are expected to be set aside from the balance available in the Trust Fund. Hence, additional requirements are not expected to arise under the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 to finance the activity.

G. Indication of additional requirements

10. Accordingly, should the General Assembly approve draft resolution A/C.1/51/L.15, no additional requirements would arise under subsection 2C.4 of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ A/51/287.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vol I.

3/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.